

Lesson
5

Making Comparisons

Teaching

Adjectives and adverbs may be used to compare people or things. Special forms of these words are used to make comparisons.

Use the **comparative** form of an adjective or adverb when you compare a person or thing with one other person or thing. Use the **superlative** form of an adjective or adverb when you compare someone or something with more than one other person or thing.

Comparative The sun is closer to Earth than any other star.

Superlative The sun is the closest star to Earth.

For most **one-syllable** modifiers, add *-er* to form the comparative (*young, younger*) and *-est* to form the superlative (*old, oldest*).

You can also add *-er* and *-est* to some **two-syllable** adjectives. With others, and with two-syllable adverbs, use the words *more* and *most* (*more careful, most calmly*).

To form the comparative or superlative form of most modifiers with **three syllables**, use the words *more* and *most* (*more dangerous, most dangerous; more clumsily, most clumsily*).

Be sure to use only one sign of comparison at a time (*harder*, not *more harder*).

The comparative and superlative forms of some adjectives and adverbs are formed in irregular ways: *good, better, best; bad, worse, worst; well, better, best; much, more, most; little, less, least*.

A. Identifying Comparative and Superlative Modifiers

On the line, label the boldfaced modifier **C** for comparative, or **S** for superlative.

1. Planets are the **largest** heavenly bodies that orbit the sun. _____
2. Asteroids, meteoroids, and comets are **smaller** than the planets. _____
3. With their improved telescopes, scientists can study the planets **more carefully** than ever before. _____
4. Mercury is the planet **nearest** to the sun. _____
5. Pluto is usually the planet **farthest** from the sun. _____
6. Venus takes **less** time to circle the sun than Uranus does. _____
7. The atmosphere of Venus is about 90 times **heavier** than is Earth's. _____
8. Of all the planets, Saturn has the **most** satellites or moons. _____
9. Jupiter rotates **more quickly** than Mars. _____
10. Although several planets have rings, Saturn has the **most famous** ones. _____

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More Practice

A. Using Comparisons

Underline the correct form of comparison for each sentence.

1. Of all the objects in our solar system, the moon is (nearer, nearest) to Earth.
2. Because the moon is so close to Earth, it looks (bigger, biggest) than the sun to us.
3. Actually, the sun is 400 times (larger, largest) than the moon.
4. Eclipses of the moon were (more frightening, most frightening) to ancient people than they are to us.
5. Modern people understand astronomy (better, best) than the ancients did.
6. The (more important, most important) surface features of the moon are its craters.
7. Craters caused by meteorites are (smaller, smallest) than those formed by comets or asteroids.
8. Because the moon is so close to Earth, spacecraft can reach the moon (more easily, most easily) than they can reach any planet.
9. Probably the (more exciting, most exciting) event in 1969 was when American astronaut Neil Armstrong landed on the moon.

B. Using Modifiers in Comparisons

After each sentence, write either the comparative or the superlative form of the word in parentheses, depending on what the sentence calls for.

1. Smiling requires (few) muscles than frowning. _____
2. Is Detroit (far) from here than Traverse City is? _____
3. These photographs developed (good) than those. _____
4. The days seem (cold) now than last week. _____
5. In many cartoons, cats are birds' (bad) enemies. _____
6. Was Merlin the (wise) of all wizards? _____
7. Mr. Burr works (hard) than any salesperson at Doe Tools. _____
8. Diana circles the bases (quickly) than any other player. _____
9. Our team practices (regularly) than any other team in the league. _____
10. The hurricane caused (little) damage than the weather forecasters had predicted. _____

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Application

A. Proofreading

Proofread the following paragraph. Look especially for comparison errors in adjectives and adverbs. If a sentence contains an error, rewrite it correctly on the line with the same number. If it is correct, write **Correct** on the line.

Meteorites are pieces of meteoroids that reach the earth. **(1)** The most heaviest meteorite found so far is in Namibia, Africa. **(2)** It weighs about 66 tons, which is most weighty than one discovered in Greenland by explorer Robert. E. Peary. **(3)** Canada probably can claim the more enormous meteorite crater in the world. **(4)** At 400 miles across, the depression is wider by far than any other meteorite crater. **(5)** Canada has four other craters, each one biggest than Meteor Crater in Arizona. **(6)** When a huge meteorite crashed to Earth in Siberia many years ago, people nearly 500 miles away saw its light more brighter than the sun. **(7)** The worse damage it did was to destroy many forests and scorch an area 20 miles wide.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

B. Using Comparisons in Writing

Picture a night of stargazing. Suppose you have decided to look for constellations, planets, or shooting stars, or you simply want to study the moon. Write a paragraph about your experiences, using the comparative or superlative forms of at least five of the adjectives and adverbs below. Underline the forms you use.

eagerly	cold	carefully	good	black
dark	warm	loudly	bad	well
brightly	cool	suddenly	mysterious	little
